

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESS ACCCOUNTS OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING., NYBORG,
DENMARK, MAY 20, 1978

REF: COPENHAGEN 3284

1. WEEKEND AND TODAY'S (MAY 22) PRESS REPORTS OF THE
INFORMAL EC FOREIGN MINISTRERS MEETING HELD ON THE ISLAND
OF FYN MAY 20 DEVOTE THE LARGEST SPACE TO THE MINISTERS'
DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE. ALL PAPERS
STATE THAT MINISTERIAL CRITICISM OF THE FRENCY ACTION
WAS SQUELCHED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF FRENCH FOREIGN
MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD THE EVENING OF MAY 20. DE
GIRINGAUD ANNOUNCED TO HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THE FRENCH
OPERATION HAD ENDED AND THAT FRENCH TROOPS WERE IN
FULL CONTROL OF THE MINING TWON KOLWEZI.

2. IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AFTER THE MEETING,
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DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN SAID THAT "IT APPEARS
THAT THIS WAS A RESCUE OPERATION WHERE THE FRENCH
GOVERNMENT WANTED TO SAVE ITS OWN CITIZENS AND OTHER
EUROPEANS WHO WERE IN DANGER. IT IS DIFFICULT TO
CRITICIZE SUCH AN ACTION AND NO CRITICAL REMARKS WERE
MADE."

3. ACCORDING TO BERLINGSKE TIDENDE (INDEPENDENT CONSERVATIVE) AND AKTUELT (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC) ONLY SIX MINISTERS TOOK PART IN THE ENTIRE DAY LONG MEETING WHICH ENDED AROUND MIDNIGHT MAY 20. DE GUIRINGAUD ARRIVED ONLY IN THE EVENING; BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET NEVER MADE IT AT ALL; AND LUXEMBOURG FOREIGN (AND PRIME) MINISTER THORN HAD PREVIOUSLY SENT HIS REGRETS.

4. CITING "INFORMED SOURCES," POLITIKEN (LEFT OF CENTER) AND AKTUELT REPORT THAT DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENTS OVER THE FRENCH OPERATION IN ZAIRE PREVENTED SIMONET FROM ATTENDING THE MEETING. AKTUELT ADDS THAT SIMONET ALSO WISHED TO BE ON HAND WHEN THE FIRST REFUGEES FROM ZAIRE LANDED IN BELGIUM.

5. AKTUELT REPORTS THAT THE MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE SENTENCE GIVEN TO SOVIET DISSIDENT YURI ORLOV. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, DENMARK, AS PRESIDENT OF THE EC, WILL DEVELOP A JOINT STATEMENT DEPLORING THE SENTENCE.

6. THE PROPOSED HUMAN RIGHTS CLAUSE FOR THE NEW LOME CONVENTION WAS REPORTEDLY ALSO DISCUSSED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS. AKTUELT WRITES THAT AGREEMENT WAS REACHED TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO THE UN DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONVENTION, BUT THAT THE WORKING UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL BE SUCH THAT COUNTRIES CANNOT BE EXCLUDED FROM THE CONVENTION ON THE BASIS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.
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